SUBJECTS.

education cheaper. Managers were not given any freedom of action by the Code. They could not appoint teachers, they could not dispense with the services of teachers without reference to Government, but all the same, they had to spend money on their schools. The Member prayed that Government might be pleased to take action on the points urged by him.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the Member are noted and will be given careful consideration. The education policy of His Highness' Government has been only recently defined. That policy will have to be given a fair trial before any material alteration is thought of. To prevent misapprehension, however, I would say, that neither Government nor the Education Department are influenced by any spirit of hostility towards private schools. What is that these schools should be made to improve the

48. *Special Schools for the Malayala Brahmins.*

Mr. Eravithayar Pandarathil (Member, [illegible]) stated that the Malayala Brahmin community was very backward in the matter of modern or English education, though they were well versed in ancient Sanskrit literature and the Vedas. Owing to the absence of English education, the members of the community were not able to move with the times. The Member further remarked that the community feared that their ancient prestige would suffer, if they were not given English education. But as the community was most conservative, the Government should take the initiative. Government might say that the Malayala Brahmins could study in the already existing English schools. But there were difficulties in the way of doing so. Each boy of the community had to observe the Brahmacharya Vritam from his 7th to his 16th year. During that period, the boy was tied down by severe restrictions, which would not admit of his attending the ordinary schools. Therefore, the Member prayed that Government might be pleased to establish English schools up to the Fifth Form, at least for some time to come, at Trivandrum, Chengannur, Kottayam and Alwaye, where Malayala Brahmin boys could study without let or hindrance.

Dewan's reply.—The Director will be asked to report on the suggestions of the Member.

49. *Promotion of education among the backward classes.*

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) stated that the backward classes were so poor that they could not help themselves in the matter of education. They were so illiterate that they could not understand the value of education. Therefore the Member stated that it was the duty of Government to establish schools for the promotion

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

of free education among the backward classes, such as Pulayas, Parayas and Kuruvas and to provide ample funds for the same.

Dewan's reply.—The question of extending education among those classes, that have been hitherto slow in availing themselves of its benefits, is engaging the consideration of the Director.

50. *Establishment of Mahomedan schools and the entertainment of Mahomedan teachers to teach Arabic.*

On behalf of *Mr. Syed Mahomed Ibrahim Pillai* (Member, Nominated) who was absent, Mr. Kunju Khadir Pillai stated that, from an educational point of view, the Mahomedans stood very low. The Member requested Government to start Mahomedan schools, wherever they were found necessary, as was done in British Malabar. He advocated the establishment of separate Elementary Schools for Mahomedans. The present Education Code vested in the Director of Public Instruction discretionary powers to start Special Schools, if there were peculiar circumstances necessitating the existence of such schools; and ample provision was made in the Code for the better elementary education of the masses by making the elementary course of study entirely free and within reach of even the poorest. The Member hoped that Government would be pleased to comply with his request on behalf of the Mahomedan community and that the establishment of Mahomedan schools would become a working reality ere long. It was pointed out by the Member that Arabic must be taught in all Mahomedan schools, as all Mahomedan children, both male and female, were compelled to learn their sacred book, the Koran, and Mahomedan teachers should be employed to teach it.

Dewan's reply.—The attention of the Director will be drawn to this matter.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly